

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 3, 6-28 and 30-52 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10-15, 18-28, 30-35, 37-41, 44-48, and 50-52 are amended. Claims 1, 6, 18, 20, 25-28, 33, 44, 45, and 50-52 are independent. Claims 2, 4, 5 and 29 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-15, 17-28, 30-41 and 43-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,995,933 to Fado et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,417,868 to Do. Claims 2 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fado et al. in view of Do, and further in view of U.S. patent No. 6,131,111 to Yoshino et al. Claims 16 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fado et al. in view of Do, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,834 to Choi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claims 1, 6, 20 and 25-27 are amended to recite steps in a method of assisting a user to make

a connection between a digital TV and at least two peripheral devices, wherein “each of the at least two peripheral devices generates an audio signal and a video signal.” Independent claim 18 is amended to recite steps in a method of assisting a user to make at least one connection between a digital TV and two peripheral devices, wherein “each of the two peripheral devices generates an audio signal and a video signal.” Independent claims 28, 33, 45 and 50-52 are amended to recite combinations of elements in an apparatus for assisting a user to make a connection between a digital TV and at least two peripheral devices, wherein “each of the at least two peripheral devices generates an audio signal and a video signal.” Independent claim 44 is amended to recite a combination of elements in an apparatus for assisting a user to make a connection to a digital TV, wherein “each of the two peripheral devices generates an audio signal and a video signal.”

It is respectfully submitted that the steps and combinations of elements set forth in independent claims 1, 6, 18, 20, 25-28, 33, 44, 45, and 50-52 are not disclosed or rendered obvious by the applied prior art of record, including Fado et al., Do and Choi.

As conceded on page 2 of the Office Action, Fado et al. does not teach or suggest connecting a main device to a peripheral device wherein the peripheral device generates an audio signal and a video signal. The Office Action relies on Do for this teaching. Do discloses a system for a user interface for a computer which includes a PC 4 having a rear panel 24 for connections from an audio

output connector 36 to an audio input of a TV 80 and from an S-video connector 46 to an S-video input of the TV 80, as shown in FIG. 4. However, the TV 80 in Do is not a "digital TV," as set forth in the presently claimed invention. Moreover, the TV 80 in Do is connected to only one device, the PC 4, whereas the digital TV in the present invention is connected to at least two devices, each of which generates an audio signal and a video signal. Therefore, Do does not teach or suggest the above-cited features of the independent claims, and therefore does not cure the deficiencies of Fado et al. with respect to these claims.

In rejecting claims 2 and 29, the Office Action relies on Yoshino et al. for a teaching of a television receiver connected to a personal computer. Claims 2 and 29 are canceled, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Moreover, Yoshino et al. does not teach or suggest the above-cited features of the independent claims and, therefore, fails to cure the deficiencies of Fado et al and Do.

In rejecting claims 16 and 42, the Office Action relies on Choi for a teaching of receiving a signal from an input device indicating that a key of the input device associated with one of the menu items has been operated by the user. However, Choi does not teach or suggest the above-cited features of the independent claims and, therefore, fails to cure the deficiencies of Fado et al and Do.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 6, 18, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 44, 45 and 50-52 are in condition for allowance and that the dependent claims, which depend directly or indirectly from these allowable independent claims, are also allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the additional limitations provided by these claims. Accordingly, all claims are in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

However, if there are any outstanding issues, the Examiner is invited to telephone Sam Bhattacharya (Reg. No. 48,107) at 703-205-8000 in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

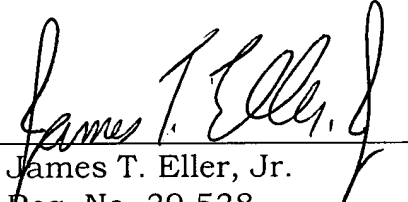
Serial No. 09/608,434
Group Art Unit 2174

Attorney Docket No. 0465-0715P
Page 20

Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16
or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: 
James T. Eller, Jr.
Reg. No. 39,538

0465-0715P

JTE:SB:mmi

58

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000